GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5345
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
IMPORT OF SEEDS
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is importing seeds of different agro products to improve the yields;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any observation system to evaluate the quality of such seeds; and

(c) if so, the details of seeds import and the testing procedures therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Under the New Policy on Seed Development read with Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003, the Government is facilitating the import of quality seeds and planting materials into the country with a view to improve productivity.

The Government has put in place an observation system for the evaluation of quality of such seeds. Initially, a small quantity of seed is permitted to be imported for in-house trials by the importer. Subsequently,multi-locational testing is carried out under the All-India Coordinated Trials by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) before large scale import is permitted. If the performance of the variety is found to be satisfactory in the multi-locational trials, the importer can import the seeds in bulk for a period of two years only. During this period, the importer must make arrangements for commercial multiplication in India through transfer of parental lines or breeder seed and seed production technology.

In respect of planting material, permission is granted on a case-to-case basis on the recommendation of the State Director of Horticulture/Agriculture, subject to post entry quarantine and such regulations as may be laid down by the Plant Protection Adviser, Government of India. In case of vegetable seed, free import is permitted subject to quarantine regulations.

The details of the recommendations by the Export and Import (EXIM) Committee of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for import of seeds and planting material is at Annexure.